

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system integrated into a file browser for managing and manipulating computer archive files comprising:

a user interface ~~integrated with into Microsoft Windows Explorer~~ the file browser's user interface interfacing ~~to~~ with a central directory;

~~as a~~ a file manager including the central directory interfacing with archive files and data object files for opening, viewing and modifying archive files and data object files, extracting and adding data to archive files and data object files, and creating new archive files and data object files;

a compression/extraction engine interfacing with the file manager for compressing, extracting, authenticating, encrypting and decrypting archive files and data object files.

Claim 2 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the user interface includes a shell, a graphical user interface and a call level interface.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the file manager includes the central directory which ~~holds~~ stores the archived files.

Claim 4 (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the compression/extraction engine includes compression and extraction algorithms.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein the user interface, file manager and compression/extraction engine are integrated into ~~Microsoft Windows Explorer~~ the file browser.

Claim 6 (original): The system of claim 1 further comprising a mail attachment compressor module for automatically compressing email attachments.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The system of claim 6 wherein the mail attachment compressor module is implemented within ~~Microsoft Outlook~~ a mail program and integrated with the compression/extraction engine.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The system of claim 7 wherein the mail attachment compressor module integrates compression into the ~~standard Microsoft Outlook~~ mail program's mail message edit form.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The system of claim 7 wherein the mail attachment compressor module provides ~~the ability to digitally sign~~ digital certificate based file authentication of attachments as they are sent.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): The system of claim ~~10~~ 7 wherein the ~~Options button~~ mail attachment compressor module includes parameters for configuration of digital certificates, ~~passwords~~ certificate based file authentication, encryption, and compression method options.


Claim 12 (currently amended): A method of managing and manipulating computer archive files, the method comprising the steps of:

integrating a software utility program into ~~Microsoft Windows Explorer~~ a file browser;  
and

accessing the software utility program to manage and manipulate ~~compressed~~ archive files stored in computer memory without leaving the browser environment by using the browser's modified menus, toolbars, and/or drag and drop operators.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 12 wherein managing archive files includes opening and viewing the contents of ~~the~~ archive files.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 12 wherein manipulating archive files includes creating ~~a new archive file~~ files.

 Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 12 wherein manipulating archive files includes modifying ~~an existing archive file~~ files.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 12 wherein manipulating archive files includes extracting data from archive files.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 12 wherein manipulating archive files includes authenticating and encrypting archive files.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of: step of integrating ~~installing~~ a mail attachment compression module ~~onto a user's computer~~;

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~~initiating Microsoft Outlook; and enabling the mail attachment feature~~ into a mail program for automatically authenticating, encrypting and compressing email attachments without leaving the mail program environment.

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Claim 19 (new): The system of claim 1 wherein the archive files are zip files.

Claim 20 (new): The system of claim 1 further comprising a mail attachment compressor module for automatically archiving and compressing email attachments.


Claim 21 (new): The system of claim 1 wherein the system is integrated into the file browser using a shell name space extension application program interface and accessed by the browser's menus, toolbars, and/or drag and drop operators.

Claim 22 (new): The system of claim 1 further comprising an Internet plug-in module integrated into an Internet browser for managing and manipulate archive files downloaded from the Internet.

Claim 23 (new): The system of claim 7 wherein the mail attachment compressor module provides encryption of attachments as they are sent.

Claim 24 (new): A system for compressing email attachments comprising a mail attachment compressor module integrated into a mail program having a compression/extraction engine for automatically compressing email attachments into zip files as the emails are sent.

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 Claim 25 (new): The system of claim 24 wherein the compression/extraction engine provides parameters for configuration of digital certificate based file authentication, encryption and compression method options of the email attachments.

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